

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 22 MAY 50 50X1-HUM

SUBJECT Moste Chemical Factory in Ljubljana

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1. Aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃) and sodium bichromate are the main products of the Moste chemical factory in Ljubljana, while aluminum sulphate, calcium aluminum, gallium, small quantities of chrome acid for chrome plating, and black chrome dye, are secondary products.

2. The factory output is as follows:

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aluminum oxide	4,000 tons
sodium bichromate	1,000 tons
aluminum sulphate	1,00 tons
gallium	600 tons
chrome acid	2,000 kilograms
black chrome dye	1,000 kilograms

3. There is a constant lag of 10 to 20 percent in the output of aluminum oxide caused by frequent machinery breakdowns, an acute shortage of skilled workers, lack of spare parts, and an insufficient supply of netting for Kelly filters. Coal supplies arrive irregularly, thus draining the existing stocks. Last fall, stoppage of work occurred several times as a result, and the output was decreased considerably. Production of sodium bichromate could be greatly increased, if the methods used were not so primitive. This product is used in the tanning industry, and supplies only half of the domestic requirement. Workers are exposed to the damaging effects of chromium compounds, and frequent absences result.

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4. Production of aluminum sulphate and gallium is normal, and the quota is often surpassed. While aluminum sulphate is exported, gallium supplies the home market exclusively.

5. The Slovene Main Directorate for the Chemical Industry is in charge of the administrative and operational management of the factory. Bojan Marok is factory director. Darij Lepajne is assistant director. Rudolf Selan, an anti-Communist, is technical supervisor. Productions and laboratory chief is Anton Seseek. Chief of accounting and book-keeping is Ivan Habic. Factory specialists with anti-Communist sympathies are Frantar, chief of the bichromate department, Strnisa, machine workshop chief, and Stane Zelenko, electric workshop chief.

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Chief of personnel is Alojz Kotar, who is also the secretary of the Communist Party in the factory.

6. [redacted] Domestic workers are also dissatisfied, but they are controlled through government pressure. The factory employs approximately 200 workers, but the number fluctuates, because of poor working conditions. The factory operates in three shifts. 50X1-HUM

7. The Moste factory has the following equipment:

- a. 2 cylinder grinders for bauxite, Losehe model
 - 1 cylinder grinder for chromite
 - 1 grinder for coarse bauxite
- 12 autoclaves
 - 1 rotating furnace to dry bauxite
- 4 red mixers
- 2 Kelly filters
 - numerous filter presses which are not used
- 2 Dorr mixers for separation of mud (Dorr Milano)
- 2 vacuum apparatus, model Vogelbusch
- 3 vacuum pumps (various types)
- 52 white mixers to separate aluminum hydroxide
- 2 white vacuum filters for drying and washing aluminum hydroxide
 - 1 rotating furnace for calcining hydrates (new)
 - 1 rotating furnace to heat chromite (old)
 - 1 vertical furnace to heat chromite (new, unused)
- 2 mixers for caustification of soda
- 2 mixers for bichromatization of sodium chromate
- 2 centrifugal machines
- 3 crystalizers, 2 x 4 meters
- 1 grinder for aluminum sulphate
- 1 mill for aluminum sulphate

b. Equipment in the machine workshop

- 1 steam turbine
- 2 generators for alternating current
- 1 generator for direct current
- 1 steam engine (held in reserve)

c. Equipment in the boiler room

- 3 steam boilers, with mobile grates, heating surface of 12 square meters
- 1 small generator for rotating furnace to dry and bake bauxite
- 1 large generator for rotating, calcining furnace

8. Water pumps provide the factory with water from the Ljubljana River because the water requirements exceed the supply obtainable through the local water system. The factory has its own electric power station, but for emergency use it is connected with the network of electric power stations in Slovenia. Raw materials are obtained from the following sources:

bauxite	:	Rovinj, Dalmatia and Bosnia
chromite	:	Macedonia
caustic soda	:	Lukavac near Tuzla in Bosnia
calcinated soda	:	Lukavac near Tuzla in Bosnia
potassium sulphate:		[redacted]
sulphuric acid	:	Hrastnik and the Zorka factory
coal	:	Trbovlje, Hrastnik and others

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9. Aluminum oxide is chiefly exported [redacted] however, a small amount is processed in the Loxovac aluminum factory in Sibenik. Export of this product has been rendered difficult because of competition

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[redacted] Comment: A sketch showing details of the plant lay-out is available [redacted]

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